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U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Command  
United States Coast Guard

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5730  
May 11, 2006

Maritime Cabotage Task Force  
1735 New York Avenue  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20006

USCG - 2006-24869 - 2

Board of Directors:

On September 17, 2004 you wrote Admiral Thomas Collins, Commandant of the Coast Guard, requesting that the Coast Guard take prompt regulatory action to define the criteria it will use to determine when a mortgage financing arrangement constitutes illegal foreign control in violation of section 2 of the Shipping Act of 1916. My office treated your request as a petition for rulemaking in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.05-20 and forwarded your letter to the National Vessel Documentation Center on November 2, 2004. To date, I have not been provided with a reply to your petition.

If you wish to correspond directly with address the National Vessel Documentation Center regarding your petition, they may be reached at the following:

792 T J Jackson Drive  
Falling Waters, WV 25419  
(304) 271-2506

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the telephone number above or by email at [Dnichols@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:Dnichols@comdt.uscg.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Nichols", with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. L. NICHOLS  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
Executive Secretary, Marine Safety and  
Security Council

Copy: NVDC